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Letter dated 4 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform that on Wednesday, 2 May 2018, the Houthi militias launched two Katyusha missiles towards the headquarters of the Centre for Rehabilitation of Children in Yemen, funded and operated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief). One of the Katyusha missiles hit the Centre itself, causing substantial damage to the building and spreading panic among the residents of the neighbourhood and the inhabitants of the Centre — children who were recruited by the Houthis to participate in combat activities and who were being rehabilitated so that they could be reintegrated into their families and into society at large. This has been the third such Houthi attack on the Centre in the past 30 days, as it was also attacked on Monday, 30 April, and Wednesday, 4 April, despite it being located in a residential area with no legitimate military targets in its vicinity. KSRelief has evacuated the children to a safer location.

The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly and despicable terrorist Houthi attack on a children's rehabilitation centre. With such attacks, the Houthi militias redouble the victimization of Yemeni children whom they have forcibly recruited into their militia. Firstly, they compelled many of their child soldiers to undertake extremely dangerous missions, such as planting thousands of mines along the Saudi-Yemeni border — and then they attack the rehabilitation centre working to give these victimized children a second chance at a normal life despite all of the trauma they have endured at the hands of the Houthis. The Coalition has taken great strides in its efforts to improve its child protection capabilities, inter alia by arranging technical visits for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and working to implement their policy recommendations. The Coalition notes with great regret that at the same time it has undertaken these efforts, the Houthis have scaled up their violations of international law and international humanitarian law, especially in regard to the protected status of children and civilian objects. The Coalition expresses its outrage at the continued Houthi practice of child soldier recruitment and demands that it be ended immediately and that all children in Houthi custody be released, to allow them to undergo rehabilitation treatment before reuniting with their families and reintegrating into their communities.

The Coalition calls upon the Security Council and the international community to condemn these heinous Houthi terrorist attacks. Furthermore, the Coalition calls on the Council to strengthen the implementation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Council resolution 2216 (2015), to hold the violators of the arms embargo

accountable, especially Iran, and to address the stockpile of illicit weapons that the Houthis have illegally amassed. These measures are necessary to ensure that such despicable Houthi attacks on children will never recur.

Finally, my delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council, and informs that a copy will be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative